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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119266 TOSEC 010178

60
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 FBO-02 ISO-00 A-01 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

CCO-00 L-02 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY:MB
APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
A - MR. LAMB
C - MR. SHINN
FBO - MR. SWAN
S/S-O: P. SHANKLE
---------- 003915
P R 212316Z MAY 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, ABLD

SUBJECT: US-USSR EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

SECDEL FOR HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT

1. MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY OF LATE IN WASHINGTON INCLUDING SERIES OF ARTICLES IN WASHINGTON POST, SEVERAL SPOTS ON WTOP RADIO AND WTOP-TV. COVERAGE HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE ON SOVIET PROJECT, BUT DISCUSSION OF LINKAGE BETWEEN US PROJECT IN MOSCOW AND SOVIET PROJECT IN US HAS APPARENTLY ALARMED SOVIETS HERE.

2. WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE DATED MAY 21 ENTITLED "US-USSR EMBASSY PLANS BALKED" CLAIMS THAT SOVIETS ARE READY TO START CONSTRUCTION ON JULY 15 BUT "CONSTRUCTION PLANS MAY
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PAGE 02 STATE 119266 TOSEC 010178

BE HELD UP BECAUSE THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS GRAPPLING WITH

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ITS OWN CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS WHILE TRYING TO BUILD A
US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW." ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS SOVIET
DISTRESS AT ESCALATION OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS WHICH HAVE
NOW REACHED $65 MILLION ANDTHEIRUNWILLINGNESS TO ASK FOR
SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FROM MOSCOW.

3. IN DISCUSSION WITH ACTING SOV DIRECTOR, SOVIET

EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY TREPYKHALIN BROUGHT UP WP ARTICLE
WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY REVEALING" ABOUT US PLANS.
WE EXPECT THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW UP OFFICIALLY AT HIGHER
LEVEL BEFORE TOO LONG. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, TOSEC 10178, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE119266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:MB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750178-1005
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750530/aaaabarc.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SECDEL FOR HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT
TAGS: ABLD, US, UR
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006